

Operating System Support Plan for Test Delivery System 2015–2016

A supported operating system is one for which American Institutes for Research (AIR) provides updates to the secure browser for that operating system. AIR provides such updates as the supported operating systems are updated or as bugs in the secure browser are detected and fixed.

This document describes AIR's plan for supporting operating systems during the upcoming test administration and following years. This plan helps districts and schools manage operating system deployments based on the support timelines.

Timing of Secure Browser Updates

For major version upgrades to a desktop operating system released before May 1, AIR will provide a secure browser update for that operating system version for the upcoming school year. For example, if an upgrade is released in April 2015, AIR will provide a secure browser that works on that upgrade for the 2015–2016 school year.

For major version upgrades to a desktop operating system released after May 1, AIR will not provide a secure browser update until the following school year, and the existing secure browser may or may not be compatible with the upgrade. For example, if an upgrade is released in June 2016, AIR will not provide a secure browser that works on that upgrade until the 2017–2018 school year. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis.

For minor version upgrades to iOS, Android, or Chrome operating systems, AIR will provide mobile secure browser updates to ensure compatibility.

Support Plan for Operating Systems

Table 1 lists the operating systems and the anticipated end-of-support dates. The shaded cells in Table 1 indicate the following:

- Yellow shading—AIR ends support for operating systems after the 2015–2016 school year.
- Gray shading—AIR ends support for operating systems after the 2016–2017 school year.

Table 1. Supported operating systems

Supported Operating Systems	Release Date	Anticipated End-of-Support Date	Notes
Windows ^a			
XP (Service Pack 3)	Oct. 2001	End of 2015–2016 School Year	Except for XP (Service Pack 3), AIR’s support for Windows operating systems ends 10 school years after its release date. For the most part, this coincides with Microsoft’s official end-of-life policies for its operating systems.
Vista	Jan. 2007	End of 2016–2017 School Year	
7	Oct. 2009	End of 2018–2019 School Year	
8.0, 8.1	Oct. 2012	End of 2021–2022 School Year	
10	Jul. 2015	End of 2024–2025 School Year	
Server 2003	April 2003	End of 2015–2016 School Year	
Server 2008	Oct. 2009	End of 2018–2019 School Year	
Sever 2012	April 2012	End of 2021–2022 School Year	
Mac OS X (Intel) ^a			
10.5	Oct. 2007	End of 2015–2016 School Year	Mac OS X computers with PowerPC processors are not supported. Apple does not document end-of-life status for its products. AIR recommends using the most recent releases. AIR support for a given version of OS X ends 10 school years after its release date.
10.6	Aug. 2009	End of 2018–2019 School Year	
10.7	July 2011	End of 2020–2021 School Year	
10.8	July 2012	End of 2021–2022 School Year	
10.9	Oct. 2013	End of 2022–2023 School Year	
10.10	Oct. 2014	End of 2023–2024 School Year	
10.11	Oct. 2015	End of 2024–2025 School Year	
Linux ^b			
Fedora 19	July 2013	End of 2015–2016 School Year	Official Fedora support typically ends one to two years after a release.
Fedora 20	Dec. 2013	End of 2016–2017 School Year	
Fedora 21	Dec. 2014	End of 2017–2018 School Year	
Fedora 22	May 2015	End of 2017–2018 School Year	

Supported Operating Systems	Release Date	Anticipated End-of-Support Date	Notes
openSUSE 13.1	Nov. 2013	End of 2016–2017 School Year	Official openSUSE 13.1 support ends November 2016.
Red Hat Enterprise 6.5	Nov. 2013	End of 2020–2021 School Year	Official Red Hat Enterprise 6.5 support ends November 2020.
Ubuntu 12.04 (LTS)	April 2012	End of 2016–2017 School Year	Ubuntu typically supports long term support (LTS) distributions for five years after a release.
Ubuntu 14.04 (LTS)	April 2014	End of 2018–2019 School Year	
iOS			
7.0, 7.1	Sept. 2013	Apple iOS operating systems are released on a rolling basis. The supported operating system versions will be updated as required each year to support advances in technology and online assessments.	Supported iPads: iPad 2 iPad 3 4th Generation (Retina display) iPad Air
8.0–8.2	Sept. 2014		
9.x	Sept. 2015		
Android			
4.3–5.1	Oct. 2011; rolling	Android operating systems are released on a rolling basis. The supported operating system versions will be updated as required each year to support advances in technology and online assessments.	Supported tablets: Google Nexus 10 Motorola Xoom Samsung Galaxy Note (2014 edition) Samsung Tab 3 and 4 LearnPad Quarto
Chrome OS			
41–46	Sept. 2013; rolling	Chrome operating systems are released on a rolling basis. The supported operating system versions will be updated as required each year to support advances in technology and online assessments.	Google releases new versions of Chrome OS every six weeks. AIR will review each release and support them after quality assurance testing is completed. Support may require updating the Chrome kiosk application.

^a If Microsoft or Apple ends support for an operating system sooner than 10 years after its release, then AIR will stop supporting that system after one full school year.

^b For Linux distributions, AIR will end support at the end of the school year after the official distributor's announced end-of-life support date.